
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN OCTOBER 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 1.5% in October 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 4% less than in October 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 6,710 metric tons at the end of October.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in October 1996. Also included are trade data for September 1996. During October, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$6.023 per kilogram (\$2.750 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$10.403 per kilogram (\$4.205 per

pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$12.043 per kilogram (\$5.463 per pound).

For the week ending January 3, 1997, Platt's Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.480 per kilogram (\$4.300 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.464 per kilogram (\$5.200 per pound).

For the year 1996, Platt's Metal Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$5.026 per kilogram (\$2.280 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$8.291 per kilogram (\$3.761 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.248 per kilogram (\$5.102 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995 p/	1996		
		September	October	Year to date 2/
Production	58,000	4,740	4,670	46,500
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	13,700	1,540	1,330	13,400
Export	18,600	1,120	1,430	17,300

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS
IN OCTOBER 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	402	W	--	--	W	402
Stainless and heat-resisting	2,450	97	--	--	W	2,550
Full alloy	1,940	1,430	--	--	46	3,420
High-strength low-alloy	345	219	--	--	--	564
Tool	1,030	43	--	--	W	1,080
Cast irons	17	516	--	--	W	533
Superalloys	W	W	--	W	390	390
Alloys:						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	--	W	--	5	W	5
Mill products made from metal power	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	10	--	--	10
Catalysts	773	--	W	--	W	773
Other	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	1,110	408	827	580	1,780	4,700
Total	8,070	2,710	837	585	2,210	14,400
Stocks, October 31, 1996	4,800	1,830	123	434	8,290	15,500

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995 p/	1996		
		September r/	October	Year to date 2/
Gross production	46,000	4,690	4,700	38,600
Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products	23,100	1,910	2,150	19,400
Shipments	24,000	2,210	2,630	20,900

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		August	September	Year to date
Australia	650	98	80	454
Belgium	103,000	6,350	11,000	105,000
Brazil	1,580	4	2	196
Canada	7,590	289	128	2,140
Chile	62,900	4,530	6,850	45,900
China	--	677	2,710	6,850
France	--	--	--	56
Germany	7,700	363	544	4,580
India	--	--	387	387
Italy	1,370	--	226	1,460
Japan	54,900	4,270	3,170	38,400
Korea, Republic of	2	--	--	--
Mexico	40,400	6,030	3,860	43,100
Netherlands	112,000	9,950	3,570	46,900
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	--	--	--
Sweden	6,300	--	114	2,690
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	5,050	3,690	53,600
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	37,600	36,400	351,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		August	September	Year to date 2/
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,140	173	394	1,710
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	31	--	1,140
Korea, Republic of	21	--	--	19
Malaysia	223	--	--	372
Mexico	2,010	128	217	947
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	47	15	421
Spain	234	--	--	12
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	--	--	8
Total	6,920	379	626	4,630

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-September		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	61,600	42,500	\$31,200
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	351	210	169
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	6,940	NA	5,150
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	5,030	2,660	4,220
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	753	330	450
Molybdenum orange	6,740	NA	2,270	14,400	NA	4,470
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65,500	41,900	74,600	64,800	40,800	46,500
Molybdenum powders	1,950	1,460	5,590	842	755	2,260
Molybdenum unwrought	1,310	1,020	3,560	768	727	2,000
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4,530	4,300	6,310	6,230	5,720	8,840
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	16	NA	241
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	28	NA	770
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	162,000	93,700	106,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.